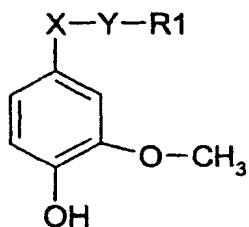


CLAIMS

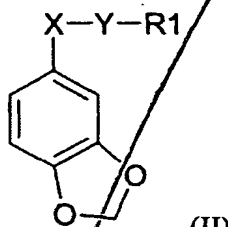
1. The use of a vanilloid corresponding to either one of the following general formulae:

5



(I)

and



(II)

wherein

10 X represents a linear, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group;

Y is chosen from the groups -N(H)C(O)-, -C(O)N-, and  
15 -C(O)-;

R1 represents a linear, branched or cyclic chain, saturated, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated, and substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl group;

20

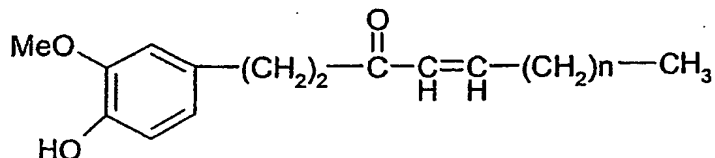
for the manufacture of a medicament intended to reduce, suppress or prevent snoring.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the vanilloid is chosen from the group consisting of capsaicin, piperine, gingerols and shogaols, advantageously this includes one or more shogaols.

3. The use as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the shogaol(s) correspond(s) to the general formula (III):

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(III)

in which n is equal to 1, 2, 4, 6 or 8, advantageously 1.

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4. The use as claimed in either of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the shogaol(s) are in the form of a crude extract of a plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family, advantageously obtained by a process which comprises the following step:

10 a) preparation of the crude extract from fresh or dried rhizomes of said plant, by maceration of a ground product of these rhizomes at a temperature of between 10 and 15 35°C, followed by one or more extractions of this ground product under reflux, or by subjecting a ground product of said rhizomes to percolation at a temperature of between 10 and 35°C, each of these operations 20 (maceration, extractions under reflux and percolation) being carried out by means of an organic solvent or of a mixture of appropriate organic solvents.

25 5. The use as claimed in either of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the shogaol(s) is in the form of a purified extract of a plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family, advantageously obtained by a process which comprises step a) as described in claim 3 and the 30 following additional steps:

b) purification of the crude extract obtained in step a) by subjecting said extract, after removal of the solvent(s) which it contains and its taking up in water, to one or more 35 countercurrent extractions by means of

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organic solvent or of a mixture of organic solvents immiscible with water, and if desired,

c) chromatographic separation of the shogaols.

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6. The use as claimed in either of claims 4 and 5, characterized in that the plant of the *Zingiberaceae* family is chosen from the species *Alpinia galanga*, *Alpinia officinarum*, *Zingiber officinalis*, *Zingiber cassumunar* and *Zingiber zerumbet*, more advantageously still this includes *Alpinia galanga*.

10

7. The use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the vanilloid is formulated for oral administration or in the form of a nasal or mouth spray.

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8. The use of a vanilloid for the manufacture of a medicament intended for treating sleep apnea.

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